



January 14, 2021

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
45 L Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Notice of Estimated Relocation or Sharing Costs and Timelines for 3450-3550  
MHz Band

Dear Chairman Pai:

Pursuant to the second sentence of Section 113(g)(4)(A) of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Organization Act, as amended (47 U.S.C. § 923(g)(4)(A)), please find attached the initial estimated relocation or sharing costs and timelines for the 3450-3550 MHz spectrum band.<sup>1</sup> NTIA, on behalf of the eligible federal entities and after review by the Office of Management and Budget, hereby notifies the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of these initial estimated costs and timelines. NTIA is concurrently providing a copy of the estimated costs and timelines to the Committees on Appropriations and Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and to the Committees on Appropriations and Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate for approval, and to the Comptroller General.<sup>2</sup>

On June 12, 2020, the FCC notified NTIA of its plan to auction licenses in 100 megahertz of the 3400-3550 MHz band beginning in December 2021.<sup>3</sup> On August 17, 2020, NTIA began the federal transition planning process in preparation for an auction of the 3450-3550 MHz band as early as December 13, 2021, in accordance with the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act (CSEA).<sup>4</sup> While NTIA informed the affected agencies that the statutory deadline for submitting transition plans to NTIA and the Technical Panel was April 16, 2021, the agencies submitted

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<sup>1</sup> The 3450-3550 MHz band is a band of “eligible frequencies” as described in Section 113(g)(2) of the NTIA Organization Act, as amended (47 U.S.C. § 923(g)(2)).

<sup>2</sup> Unless disapproved within 30 days, the estimate shall be approved. If disapproved, NTIA may resubmit revised initial estimate. 47 U.S.C. § 923(g)(5).

<sup>3</sup> See *Facilitating Shared Use in the 3100-3500 MHz Band, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, WT Docket No. 19-348, 35 FCC Rcd 11078, 11115 n. 201 (Oct. 2, 2020) (*citing* Letter from Ronald Repasi, Act’g Chief, Off. of Eng. and Tech., FCC, to Douglas Kinkoph, Acting Ass’t Sec’y for Comm’s and Info., NTIA (June 12, 2020)).

<sup>4</sup> See Letter from Charles Cooper, Assoc. Admin., Off. of Spect. Mgt., NTIA, to Ronald Repasi, Act’g Chief, Off. of Eng. and Tech., FCC, and Donald Stockdale, Chief, Wireless Telecom. Bur., FCC (Sept. 8, 2020).

their plans much earlier – in November 2020.<sup>5</sup> On January 13, 2021, the Technical Panel found the revised transition plans submitted by the federal entities to be sufficient, and NTIA compiled and consolidated the estimated costs and timelines in the enclosure.<sup>6</sup>

With enactment of the Beat CHINA for 5G Act, the FCC is exempted from the CSEA’s 18-month auction notification requirement with respect to this band.<sup>7</sup> With today’s notification of the estimated costs and timelines, this should enable the FCC to move expeditiously to a successful and timely auction of the 3450-3550 MHz band.

We look forward to continuing to work with the FCC and the federal entities to further the advancement of 5G. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Charles Cooper, Associate Administrator in NTIA’s Office of Spectrum Management, at 202-482-5805.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Roddy  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Communications  
and Information, performing the delegated duties of  
the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for  
Communications and Information

Enclosure

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<sup>5</sup> The Technical Panel was established by Section 113(h)(3)(A) of the NTIA Organization Act, as amended (47 U.S.C. § 923(h)(3)(A)), and is governed by 47 CFR Part 301.

<sup>6</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 923(h)(4). Not later than 120 days before the commencement of the auction of the eligible frequencies, NTIA will publish the publicly available transition plans on NTIA’s website. See 47 U.S. C. § 923(h)(5); see also *id.* § 923(h)(7) and NTIA Manual of Regulations and Procedures for Federal Radio Frequency Management § 0.7 (Classified and Other Sensitive Information).

<sup>7</sup> See Beat China by Harnessing Important, National Airwaves for 5G Act of 2020, Pub. L. No. 116-260, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Div. FF, Title IX, Sec. 905(d)(1) (Dec. 27, 2020).

ATTACHMENT

FEDERAL ENTITY	ESTIMATED AGGREGATE COSTS (\$millions)	ESTIMATED SPENDING TIMELINE (months) <sup>1</sup>	ESTIMATED SPECTRUM TRANSITION TIMELINE (months) <sup>2</sup>	
			Within Cooperative Planning Areas (CPAs) <sup>3</sup>	Contiguous US outside CPAs
Department of Defense, Office of Chief Information Officer (DOD\OCIO)	302.18	126	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Defense Information Systems Agency, Defense Spectrum Organization (DISA\DSO)	84.095	78	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Department of the Air Force	772.2739	138	12, 138 <sup>4</sup>	0
Department of the Army	244.815	78	9	0
Department of the Navy	12,028.7764	132	9	0
Total:	\$13,432.1403			

<sup>1</sup> The “Spending Timeline” identifies the estimated maximum time period during which the federal entity will use amounts received from the Spectrum Relocation Fund (SRF) (represented by the number of months after transfer from the SRF when the entity estimates it will complete using SRF funds).

<sup>2</sup> The “Transition Timeline” is the estimated maximum number of months from the start of the transition period (the date on which the auction concludes) and when relocation is complete or coordination within Cooperative Planning Areas (CPAs) begins pursuant to applicable sharing criteria and arrangements. The conclusion of the auction is the date on which an auction of eligible frequencies concludes in accordance with Section 309(j)(16)(B) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

<sup>3</sup> The FCC’s *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in WT Docket No. 19-348 proposed to define Cooperative Planning Areas (CPAs) as geographic locations in which non-federal operations shall coordinate with federal systems in the band to deploy non-federal operations in a manner that shall not cause harmful interference to federal systems operating in the band and to protect non-federal operations from potential harm caused by high powered federal operations.

<sup>4</sup> For the Little Rock AFB CPA, the Air Force will begin temporary coordinated sharing with Station Keeping Equipment (SKE) frequencies starting at 12 months after the auction concludes; for all other frequencies, including SKE frequencies at other locations, sharing will begin at 9 months after the auction concludes. The Air Force estimates that all use of these frequencies will cease by 138 months after the auction concludes.